

# Pesticide Safety *Information*

## Worker Health and Safety Branch

### Series N

N-8

#### HAZARD COMMUNICATION FOR EMPLOYEES HANDLING PESTICIDES IN NONCROP SETTINGS\*

\* **Employers:** Fill in the blank lines on this page and display this handout at the employee's work site.

##### General:

This handout tells you about your right to know the pesticide dangers at work and about the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) rules on "Hazard Communication" in California. "Hazard Communication" is a program to make sure you know about the dangers at work, how to protect yourself from those dangers, and where to get information about the dangers and safety procedures.

Pesticides are chemicals commonly used to kill insects, weeds, germs and plant diseases on farms, as well as, in non-agricultural settings (landscape, parks, restaurants or hospitals). Fertilizers are not pesticides.

The label on the pesticide, training, and other forms of warning tell you of the dangers. Your boss must know and tell you (in a language you understand) about the pesticides you will use, and how to protect yourself and safely use them.

##### Your Rights As An Employee:

By law you must be told about possible dangers where you work. You must also be trained to recognize and avoid those dangers. As an employee you have the following rights:

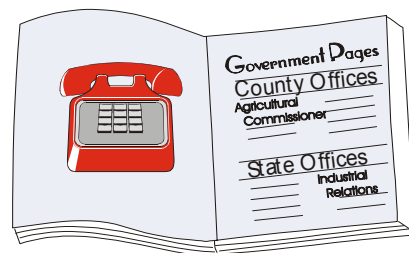
- You have the right to know what pesticides were sprayed and to look at the application records. The required records are kept at:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- You have the right to file a complaint about the dangers at work without being punished or fired. Your boss will not be told who filed the complaint.

- You have the right to look at Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), if available, for each pesticide used. These documents tell you about the pesticides and their dangers.
- Your boss must plan ahead for medical care and make sure that you are taken to the doctor if you get sick or hurt because of pesticides at your job. Medical care is available for you at:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- If you get sick or injured on the job, you have the right to file a claim for worker's compensation. Workers' compensation will pay for your medical costs, and in some cases, lost pay.

Your boss will explain your rights to you. If you need more help in understanding your rights, you may contact the local county agricultural commissioner's office, the local legal aid or worker's rights office, your union or DPR at: Anaheim (714) 279-7690; Fresno (559) 445-5401 or Sacramento (916) 372-6892.

Pesticides are only one kind of danger at your work. Complaints about pesticide dangers should be filed with the county agricultural commissioner. Complaints about other safety problems should be filed with the California Department of Industrial Relations-Cal/OSHA office. The telephone numbers can be found in the government pages of the telephone book.



## Training/Education:

Training is one important way to learn about pesticide dangers and how to protect yourself from the pesticide. If you work with pesticides, you must be given training about using pesticides and pesticide equipment safely. The training must occur before you begin to work with pesticides. You must be given refresher training each year to help remind you how to handle pesticides safely. You must know the immediate and long-term dangers the pesticides can cause and how to safely use the pesticides you will work with. Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) handout N-1 tells you everything that must be part of your pesticide training. Extra training is needed if you use respirators (see PSIS handout N-5). All information that was part of your training must be written down and you must sign the paper to show you have been trained, but only after you have finished the training.



You must be told where you can see the work-related papers that must be made available to you (see Table 2). You do not need to ask your boss' permission to look at these records.

## Hazard Identification:

The pesticide label tells you what chemicals are in the container, information about the pesticide, first aid, warnings, protective equipment needed and directions for application. Other chemicals, called "inert ingredients", are not usually written on the label. These other ingredients can also make you sick. Doctors who need to know the names of the ingredients to treat you can usually get that information from the company who makes the pesticide or from DPR.

Before a pesticide can be used in California, tests are done to find out about its harmful effects. The pesticide label gives you information on the dangers of using the pesticide. All pesticides are poisonous. If you are exposed, they can harm you or make you sick.

- "DANGER" means the pesticide is very poisonous; touching or breathing very small amounts can cause serious harm or sickness.

- "WARNING" means moderate danger; it takes exposure to more pesticide to make you sick or hurt.
- "CAUTION" means the danger is low; it can still cause harm or sickness, but requires contact to much more pesticide

In addition, the label also tells you about more specific dangers and the safety measures you need to follow. You must know and follow those precautions.

- If the pesticide causes serious eye or skin injury, the label will say something like, "Corrosive, causes eye and skin damage."
- If the pesticide can make you very sick, the label will have a skull-and-crossbones symbol and the word "POISON."
- Words like "fatal" or "may be fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin" also means the pesticide can make you very sick or cause death if you are exposed to too much.
- Some labels tell you about other health problems such as cancer or birth defects.

You cannot rely only on the pesticide label to tell you of the dangers. Your boss must have a copy of the MSDS for the pesticide(s) sprayed and must tell you where you can go look at it. Other sources of safety information may include industry trade bulletins, and government hazard alerts and other Pesticide Safety Information Series handouts like this one.

## Labels And Other Forms Of Warnings:

In addition to training, there are many other ways that information is given to you (see Table 2 on page 4). The pesticide label tells you how to safely mix and apply the pesticide. The label must be at the your work site when you mix or apply the pesticide. Normally this is the label on the pesticide container. It can also be on a "product bulletin" or other additional labeling. If a service container (any container that is not the original factory container) is used, your boss must make sure that the complete label is at your work site. Service containers must be labeled to identify the pesticide, the signal word (Danger, Warning, Caution), and who is responsible for the container and the pesticide in it.

<b>Pesticide Name</b> EPA Registration No.	
Active Ingredients	xx%
Inert Ingredients	x%
<b>DANGER</b> Statement of Practical Treatment Precautionary Statements Hazards to Humans Personal Protective Equipment Environmental Hazards	
<b>Nonagricultural Use Requirements</b> <small>Additional instructions for use of this pesticide in nonagricultural settings.</small>	
<b>Directions for Use</b> <small>Additional instructions for use of this pesticide in agricultural settings.</small>	

When possible, keep pesticides in their original container with the original label. Never use food, drink, or household product containers for pesticides.

Most places where pesticides are stored must be locked and posted with warning signs. The signs must be in a language you understand. More information on pesticide storage, transportation and disposal is found in PSIS handout N-2.

In 1986, a law called the *Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986* (Proposition 65) was passed. Proposition 65 requires California to make a list of chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The Proposition 65 list

contains many chemicals, including dyes, solvents, pesticides, drugs, and food additives. If a pesticide is on the Proposition 65 list, your boss must warn you if you might be exposed to enough pesticide to result in a significant risk of cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Your boss may also warn you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. Your boss is required to keep specific information on each pesticide application. You have a right to look at this information; in your training, you should be told where you can find it. If you are unsure of the location, ask your boss. Table 1 lists pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and might be used in California.

**Table 1**  
**CURRENTLY REGISTERED PESTICIDES ON THE PROPOSITION 65 LIST**

**PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE CANCER**

Alachlor	<i>p</i> -Dichlorobenzene	Lindane	<i>o</i> -Phenylphenol
Arsenic acid	1,3-Dichloropropene	Mancozeb	Propargite
Arsenic pentoxide	Diethyl phthalate	Maneb	Pronamide (propyzamide)
Arsenic trioxide	Dipropyl	Metam sodium	Propylene oxide
Cacodylic acid	Isocinchomeronate	Metiram	Silica aerogel
Captan	Diuron	Oxadiazon	Sodium dichromate
Chlorothalonil	Ethoprop	Oxythioquinox	Thiodicarb
Chromic acid	Ethylene oxide	Pentachlorophenol	Vinclozolin
Creosote	Fenoxycarb	<i>o</i> -Phenylphenate, sodium	
Daminozide	Folpet	( <i>o</i> -phenylphenol, sodium)	
DDVP (dichlorvos)	Formaldehyde (gas)		
	Iprodione		

**PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS OR REPRODUCTIVE HARM**

Amitraz	Disodium	Methyl bromide (as a structural fumigant)	Sodium
Arsenic, pentoxide	cyanodithioimido		dimethyldithiocarbamate
Arsenic, trioxide	carbonate	Myclobutanil	Sodium fluoroacetate
Benomyl	EPTC (ethyl	Nabam	(1080)
Bromacil, lithium salt	dipropylthiocarbamate)	Nicotine	Streptomycin sulfate
Bromoxynil octanoate	Ethylene oxide	Nitrapyrin	Thiophanate methyl
Chlorsulfuron	Fenoxaprop ethyl	Oxadiazon	Triadimefon
Cyanazine	Fluazifop butyl	Oxydemeton-methyl	Tributyltin methacrylate
Cycloate	Fluvalinate	Oxythioquinox	Triforine
2,4-D butyric acid (2,4-DB)	Hydramethylnon	Potassium	Vinclozolin
Diclofop methyl	Linuron	dimethyldithiocarbamate	Warfarin
	Metam sodium	Propargite	
	Metiram	Resmethrin	

**Records:**

There are many papers your boss must keep and make available for you read (see Table 2). These papers can be grouped into two general kinds, training and exposure.

*Training.* Your boss must keep a written record of the training provided to you.

*Exposure.* Your boss must keep records for all pesticides you apply .

**Emergency Medical Care:**

If you become ill or are injured on the job you must be taken for medical care. Do not drive yourself if you are ill or injured.

More information on first aid is available in PSIS handout N-4.

Other PSIS handouts mentioned in this document should be part of your training. They are free and are available from your boss and the local agricultural commissioner's office.

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This leaflet helps you to learn about pesticide regulations. It is not a legal document. The legal reference can be found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3. The words "must" and "should" used in the text are **not** the same. The word "must" means the action is required and comes from California regulations. The word "should" indicates extra safety practices that are recommended to help reduce pesticide exposure.

**Table 2****SUMMARY OF "HAZARD COMMUNICATION" RECORDS**

Information	Kept for:	Location	Section <sup>1</sup>
Training records	2 years	Boss' office site	6724(e)
Written training program	2 years	Boss' office site	6724(a)
Respirator program procedures	During use	Boss' office site	6738(h)
Accident response plan (fumigants)	During use	Work site	6780(d)
Pesticide label	During use	Work site	6602
Pesticide Safety Information Series	2 years	Boss' office site	6723(b)
Material Safety Data Sheet	2 years	Boss' office site	6723(b)
Storage area posting <sup>2</sup>	During use	Storage area	6674
Emergency medical care notice	During use	Work site	6726
Medical evaluation (respirator use)	During use	Boss' office site	6738(h)
Pesticide use records	2 years	Boss' office site	6624

<sup>1</sup> Rules are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3 and the section listed in this column

<sup>2</sup> Required only for pesticides with the Signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING"

Your county agricultural commissioner can provide additional information about these requirements.

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